VRS package for employees of BGML

*157. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3533 employees of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) would be offered a special VRS package;

(b) if so, the details of the package thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has also extended option of shifting of employees to other Departments which are in need of manpower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) stands closed *w.e.f.* 1.3.2001 under Section 25(O) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in terms of permission granted by Ministry of Labour, Government of India *vide* letter dated 29.1.2001. The issue of the closure/winding up of the company is *sub-judice* in High Court of Karnataka because of the litigation initiated by the erstwhile employees of BGML. As such, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Voluntary Separation Schemes (VSS) cannot be introduced in a closed BGML. However, on the request of erstwhile employees of BGML the directions of the High Court of Karnataka and to give a human face, Government decided to grant Special Terminal Package on the lines of VSS prevalent upto February, 2001 subject to the decision of the Court.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Al-Quaieda activities in Jammu and Kashmir

*158. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any report regarding the Al-Quaieda activities in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.S. Government has proposed joint operation against Al-Quaieda in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Government have been receiving reports indicating that following the defeat of Taliban and other foreign terrorist who were in Afghanistan prior to November, 2001, a substantial number of erstwhile Taliban and allied fundamentalist groups have crossed over to Pakistan and PoK. These terrorists are likely to join terrorists outfits like Jaishe-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al-Badr, Hizbul Mujahideen etc. for their eventual infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir and to escalate terrorist violence in the State of J&K and elsewhere.

(c) the possibility of Al-Quaieda terrorist having infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir cannot, therefore, be ruled out.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

Constitution of a tribunal for redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel

*159. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Administrative Tribunal for speedy redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel as appeared in the 'Times of India' of 13th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing forum available for redressal of their grievances and what type of Sortcomings have been detected in this system;

(d) what would be the constitution of the proposed Tribunal and whether a time-frame would be laid down for disposal of the cases filed before this Tribunal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?